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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MAPUTO 001010

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/S - HTREGER AND EB/CBA - DWINSTEAD

FCS FOR RDONOVAN AND JVANRENSBURG

USDOC FOR AHILLIGAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ECON](#) [EAID](#) [EINV](#) [ETRD](#) [MZ](#) [BFIF](#)

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE: 2005 BFIF END-OF-FISCAL YEAR REPORT

REF: A. STATE 108127

[B](#). MAPUTO 537

[C](#). STATE 37169

[D](#). STATE 24848

SUMMARY

[1](#). This year's BFIF program funds were used to support an Entrepreneurship Forum held on March 22-23, 2005 in the capital city of Maputo (ref B). More than 100 Mozambican university students, private sector representatives, and government officials attended the event, which aimed to encourage potential and current entrepreneurs to capitalize on business opportunities in Mozambique and export markets abroad, including the U.S. In keeping with the MPP goal of promoting economic growth and development, focus was given to the creation of sound business plans, profiling of target customers, quest for technical and financial assistance, transport to foreign markets, how to choose competitive products, and finding U.S. business partners.

[2](#). The Forum, which was opened by the Ambassador and Minister of Industry and Commerce Antonio Fernando, featured presentations by Mozambican and other African entrepreneurs who shared their experiences with building successful business ventures in various sectors, including agriculture, horticultural/floricultural, food processing and aquaculture shrimp. The Forum also included speakers from the Corporate Council on Africa, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Southern Africa Trade Hub, all of whom highlighted opportunities for U.S. financial and technical support, market opportunities, business linkages, and networking events.

[3](#). The Forum received significant press coverage and has since been mentioned positively by several GRM officials and business leaders in meetings with COM and Emboffs. Post will pursue several follow-up actions based on input received from participants (ref B). The large Mozambican delegation of private sector and GRM representatives at the Corporate Council on Africa's U.S.-African Business Summit in Baltimore June 21-24 can certainly be attributed in part to the successes of the Entrepreneurship Forum and the Corporate Council on Africa's active involvement in it.

EXPENDITURES

[4](#). Post was allocated a total of USD 15,385 in FY05 BFIF funds for the following two projects:

A) Entrepreneurship Forum

Total Funding: USD 14,000

Embassy expenditures on this project total USD 13,673.81 as follows:

Total Per Diem USD 2,876.00

Total Airfare USD 6,239.24

Total Space Rental USD 1,350.00

Total Contract Services USD 3,208.57

Balance Remaining USD 326.19

B) Regional Commercial Training in Gaborone

Total Funding: USD 1,385

Post did not use the USD 1,385 in funding allocated for this project, as the Econ/Commercial Officer was unable to travel due to logistical constraints.

COMMENT

[5](#). This year's BFIF program was one of the most successful at post to date. The Entrepreneurship Forum was the first of its kind to be held in Mozambique. Bringing together both current and future Mozambican business leaders, post was able to provide valuable commercial and economic information to those seeking to build businesses and expand exports abroad. Mozambique lacks a healthy and well-developed small-to-medium-sized (SME) business community. With continued technical assistance and increased efforts by post to engage the GRM on policy reform, business opportunities in this vital area can be expanded.

[6](#). Post appreciates this opportunity and looks forward to the possibility of working with the BFIF program again in 2006.

